

5 September 1984

MEMORANDUM:

SUBJECT: Libyan Troublemaking--1979-1984

April 1979 -- Libya airlifted several hundred troops to Uganda in an unsuccessful effort to prevent the fall of Idi Amin.

December 1979 -- Demonstrations against US policy toward the Khomeini regime in Iran led to the burning of the US Embassy in Tripoli.

January 1980 -- Libya sponsored an attempt by Tunisian dissidents to take over the southern Tunisian town of Gafsa as a first step in unseating President Bourguiba.

April 1980-July 1981 -- Libyan hit squads embarked on a series of murders of Qadhafi's exiled political opponents. Eleven Libyans were killed: four in Rome, two in London, and one each in Bonn, Beirut, Athens, Milan, and Manchester; several others were seriously wounded, including one exile's two children and a Libyan student in the United States.

October 1980 -- Libyan subversion in The Gambia prompted President Jawara to break relations and led to the intervention of Senegalese troops under a mutual defense treaty.

October 1980 -- Libyan troops entered Chad in order to strengthen President Goukouni in his fight with rebel Defense Minister Habre.

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August 1981 -- Qadhafi entered into the Tripartite Pact with Ethiopia and South Yemen as a means of stepping up subversion against Sudan and Somalia.

(Qadhafi moderated his aggressive posture in 1982 as part of his campaign to be selected chairman of the OAU and to lessen the damage to Libyan interests resulting from international condemnation of his 1980-81 murder campaign)

October 1982 -- Qadhafi publicly warned Libyan dissidents in exile to return home or face death.

February 1983 -- The US and Egypt helped foil a Libyan-sponsored coup attempt by Sudanese dissidents against President Nimeiri.

April 1983 -- Qadhafi's attempt to secretly airlift arms to Nicaragua was blocked when Brazil detained a Libyan aircraft in transit.

July-August 1983 -- Libyan aircraft and ground forces intervened in Chad in support of Chadian rebels seeking to recapture Faya Largeau from government forces.

August 1983 -- Libyan arms and financial support helped Thomas Sankara oust the pro-Western regime in Upper Volta.

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November 1983 -- The Libyan expeditionary force in Lebanon participated in the fighting near Tripoli that resulted in the evacuation of pro-Arafat Palestinians.

February 1984 -- Qadhafi sponsored the burning of the Jordanian Embassy in Tripoli in order to dissuade King Hussein from seeking a negotiated settlement with Israel.

March 1984 -- Libyan agents conducted terrorist attacks against Libyan dissidents in London and Manchester.

March 1984 -- Libya was implicated in the explosion of a French airliner in Chad.

March 1984 -- A Libyan TU-22 bomber attacked Sudan's main broadcasting facility near Khartoum.

April 1984 -- Libyans in the Peoples Bureau in London shot a British policewoman and 11 Libyan dissidents demonstrating against the hanging of students in Tripoli.

April 1984 -- A bomb placed by pro-Qadhafi extremists exploded at London's Heathrow airport causing a number of casualties.

June 1984 -- Qadhafi publicly threatened to "export terrorism" to the US in retaliation for alleged US support for the attack on his headquarters by Libyan dissidents in May.

June-July 1984 -- Libyan agents killed or seriously wounded four Libyan dissidents in Athens.

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July 1984 -- Libya released a Norwegian merchant ship detained for over two months after interrogating and, in some instances, torturing crew members for alleged involvement with Libyan dissidents.

July-August 1984 -- Libya is implicated in the mining of the Red Sea that causes damage to an estimated 18 merchant ships.

August-September 1984 -- Libya attempts to smuggle arms and explosives into Saudi Arabia in an effort to kill Libyan dissidents there and to disrupt the Hajj.

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